

- (c) whether it is also a fact that the maps for each site would be published soon; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Archaeological Survey of India has proposed to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010 and has started the process of reviewing the Act including provisions on restrictions for construction near the monuments.

(c) and (d) Archaeological Survey of India has entrusted the responsibility of preparing the maps showing protected/prohibited/regulated areas of the protected monuments/sites of national importance to Survey of India. It has also been decided to collaborate with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) for preparation of maps.

#### **Classical status to Marathi language**

2270. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government of Maharashtra has submitted the proposal to the Ministry requesting the classical status to Marathi language;
- (b) if so, is the proposal complete in all respects; and
- (c) if answer to (b) above is 'yes' what is the time-frame to grant the status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal for grant of classical status to Marathi language. The proposal was considered by the Linguistic Experts Committee which recommended that classical status be given to Marathi language. No time-frame to declare the language a classical one can be fixed as the procedure involves consultation with various Ministries and finally approval of the Cabinet.

#### **Promotion of Majuli as a World Heritage Act**

2271. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Majuli, the largest River Island of Assam, is unique in its natural settings as well as cultural aspects and occupies a special place, the Satras of Majuli over the centuries given cultural heritage to the region;